



OHCO

Occupational Health Clinics
for Ontario Workers Inc.

Centres de santé des
travailleurs (ses) de l'Ontario Inc.

Occupational Illness Prevention A Priority for Ontario

Kimberly O'Connell, ROH, CIH, CRSP
Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers
October 2025

OHCOW

- Retirements of Legends
- Dave Wilken



Ontario Partner Initiatives/Collaborations

- Ontario - Leadership
- Occupational Illness Leadership Table
 - WHMIS Framework Working Group (MLITSD & All OHS System Partners)
 - Worker Exposure History- ECHO OEM & OER (Occupational Exposure Registry)
- *Calling all Primary Care Practitioners- Enhancing Patient Care with a Work & Health Pilot (Building Trades)*
- OD Awareness Campaign -example Ontario Silica Control Tool: "Work to live. Tool up for a healthier tomorrow."



Enhance Patient Care: Join Our Work & Health Pilot
June - December 2025

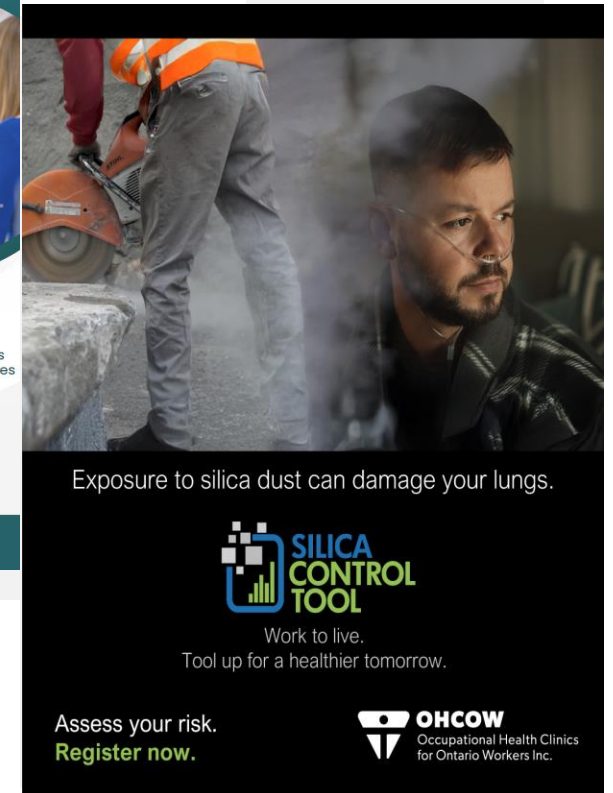
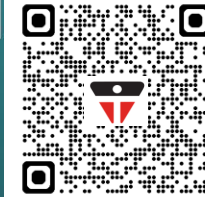
ONTARIO PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS NEEDED
Are you a primary care provider in Ontario? Help shape the future of work & health in primary care by participating in a study aimed at improving patient care by collecting work and health data.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?
✔ Virtual Training
✔ Pilot Participation
✔ Post-Pilot Feedback

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?
Licenses and practicing in Ontario:
• Physicians • Physiotherapists
• Chiropractors • Registered Nurses

WHY PARTICIPATE?
• Honorarium for your clinic
• Be part of innovative research to improve occupational healthcare
• Gain insights into how work impacts your patient's health

Study approval has been granted by Dalhousie Research Ethics Board (REB2025-7673)
CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION
506-464-3019
WorkHealthPrimaryCare@dal.ca



Exposure to silica dust can damage your lungs.

SILICA CONTROL TOOL
Work to live.
Tool up for a healthier tomorrow.

Assess your risk.
Register now.

OHCOW
Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers Inc.



Research Excellence
Safe Work
Healthy Workers



Ontario Partner Initiatives/Collaborations

- Occupational Illness Prevention Steering Committee (formerly ODAP)
 - Silica Control Tool
 - Heat Stress Toolkit
 - Research Initiatives
 - Prevention Strategy 2026-2031- Input
 - OELs



NOTE: All OHS System Initiatives
Numerous additional efforts ongoing with each of the HSAs in their sector specificity

Silica Control Tool in Review

Analytics:

- 1079 SCT Account Holders
- 745 Exposure Analysis Dials created (key piece to Exposure Control Plans)
- Silica exposure was reduced by an average of 40%.
- Featured in 3 publications: [Rock to Road](#), [OHS Magazine](#) and [Canadian Contractor](#).
- Hosted 3 demo sessions with Ontario BCRSP Members.
- Collaborated with IHSA to host a session for the OGCA.



Surface Mining Version

- Continued partnership with BCCSA
- Existing users can easily access the new Surface Mining version – new users will be able to access both versions as well.
- Data from BC that serves the surface mining sector in ON.
- Shared the tool with the OSSGA at the Health & Safety Meeting & in their weekly newsletter.
- Call for data to the OSSGA members as well.
- Melanie Gorman Ng will be presenting on the Surface Mining SCT at our Occ|Tober event.
- Hoping increased collaborations with
- WSN/IHSA.



NEW!

SURFACE MINING SILICA CONTROL TOOL

For the Ontario Surface Mining Industry

ONTARIO LAUNCH NOW AVAILABLE

FREE for all Ontario surface mining workers

DID YOU KNOW? Any activity that creates dust can expose a worker to Silica

It is estimated that **429,000** Canadian workers have been exposed to crystalline silica **

LARGEST OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS AFFECTED BY SILICA INCLUDE:

CONSTRUCTION OIL and GAS MINING MANUFACTURING AGRICULTURE

27% of Canadian mining workers are exposed to silica*

Learn more at: 

“A fantastic, user-friendly tool that provides Hazard Assessments for construction work. I greatly appreciated the tool's ability to auto-generate Exposure Control Plans, based on the information entered, that I could then print for our job sites and reduce silica exposures.”

THIERRY BÉLISLE – Technical Advisor, Occupational Health and Safety

www.ohcow.on.ca | www.miningontario.silicacontroltool.com

*Cares Canada **The Occupational Cancer Research Centre (OCRC) and Cares Canada



SCT Upcoming

What's coming:

- French version of the tool in progress – coming soon.
- Will be attending PIP in Kitchener & Thunder Bay and Provincial Building Trades Conference in Windsor
- Enhance/Update PreventOccDisease and Business Safety Portal
- Creating infographics and resources for the Surface Mining SCT.



1 AN!

SILICA CONTROL TOOL

Pour l'Industrie de la **construction** de l'Ontario

ONTARIO LANCEMENT ► **NOVEMBRE 2023**

GRATUIT pour tous les travailleurs de la construction de l'Ontario inscrits

SACHEZ-VOUS? Toute activité générant de la poussière peut exposer un travailleur à la Silice

On estime que **429,000*** travailleurs canadiens ont été exposés à la silice cristalline

LES PLUS GRANDES CATÉGORIES PROFESSIONNELLES TOUCHÉES PAR LA SILICE INCLUENT :

CONSTRUCTION

2.5% des cancers du poumon diagnostiqués en Ontario chaque année sont causés par la silice**

En savoir plus sur :

“Un outil fantastique et convivial qui fournit des évaluations des risques pour les travaux de construction. J'ai beaucoup apprécié la capacité de l'outil à générer automatiquement des plans de contrôle de l'exposition, basés sur les informations saisies, que je pouvais ensuite imprimer pour mes charniers et réduire les expositions à la silice.”

THIERRY BÉLISSE – Conseiller technique, Santé et sécurité au travail

www.ohcow.on.ca

*Cancer Canada. **Le Centre de recherche sur le cancer professionnel (CRCP) et Santé contre le cancer en Ontario (CCCO)

Silica-Next Steps?

- Occupational Exposure Limits
- Data, Evidence & Knowledge Mobilization (DEKM)- Engineered Stone
- WSPS- additional data into tool for Engineered Stone- Countertops
- YOU! How many have referred or coached using the SCT?



Heat Stress Toolkit- OHS System at its best

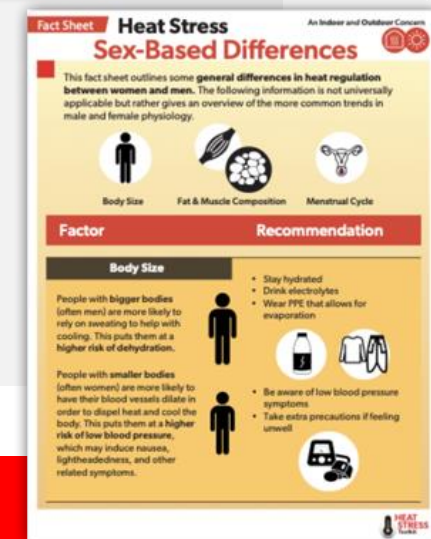
- THANK YOU FOR SHARING -KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION!
- Heat Stress Toolkit: <https://www.ohcow.on.ca/heat-stress-toolkit/>
- A total of 98,800 views on the heat stress webpage.
- A total of 8,724 views on the heat stress video.
- There have been 11,519 downloads of the heat stress toolkit.
- Seasonal outreach from OHCOW's TNO and TeaMWork members directly to Ontario migrant agricultural workers.
- OHCOW's TeaMWork project is translating more resources to Thai and Tagalog.
- [Workplace Health Without Borders Webinar-Learning From the Field, Growing Your Toolkit](#)
- App in development -Data Collection Sensor Technology
- Data collection with the OFL and USW: evaluating heat stress management in workplaces across Ontario.
 - This data will inform updates to the Heat Stress Toolkit and potential database.



For other infographics in this series, or to learn more about working in the heat, see our Heat Stress Toolkit:



Scan or Click



Program Updates (Ergo/Injury Prevention)

- October is Global Ergonomics Month!
- [Advancing Vibration Risk Management: MLITSD Northern Region on Mining Initiative Webinar](#)
- [3 part video playlist regarding Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome \(HAVS\).](#)
- Ongoing ergonomist & IT tech support efforts to update and complete [JobAssess](#) tool and app; pilot planned in a municipal LTC



Program Updates (Workplace Mental Health)

- World Mental Health Day (Oct 10)
- Numerous StressAssess and Mini MIT Projects /Inquiries
- 24-25 included supporting partnership initiative to survey Construction workers w. IHSA which is ongoing
- COPSOQ International & Steering Committee Rep
- [Mayday, Mayday 2025](#) successful w. +/- 100 attendees weekly, slides & playlists posted, wrap-up email w. survey pending
- WMH elements to Ergo, IAQ & Vulnerable Worker activities

Other OHCOW Initiatives/Collaborations

- CHAP Risk Tool
- Lead
- OCRC- Co-Exposures Project Advisory Committee
- TLV Submissions- OEL – Health- Based
- IOHA- Community of Practice – Sensor Technology
- Diesel Exhaust
- IAFF-Funding Health Canada Firefighter Cancer Prevention Program
- Pesticides
- Nail Salon
- Noise: fit-testing of hearing protection devices (Alberta)

**Toronto
Metropolitan
University**



OHCOW's Clinical Cluster Investigations

- Special Project Budget:

- Rubber Worker Project (expand outreach, Salivary Gland)
- McIntyre Powder (Sarcoidosis, CV, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's-like cases, neurological)
- Peterborough (GE, Ventra/Pebrax) (GI, Prostate, Lung Cancers, Beryllium Disease, Reproductive, Salivary Gland Case Series & Lit Review)

- Core Budget:

- Neelon
- Dryden RB4
- Kidd Met Site
- Algoma/Essar Steel
- Kellogg's
- Agent Orange
- Enbridge
- Stelco
- The Big Board



Occ|Tober 2025: Beyond the Barriers: Uniting for Occupational Illness Prevention



- OHCOW's annual Occ|tober and Beyond Webinar Series starts October 30 (12 pm - 1:30 pm) and every following Thursday until November 27!
- Certificates of attendance are available that can be used towards CM points

Occ|tober & Beyond Webinar Series 2025

REGISTER TODAY!

WEEK ONE October 30, 2025
MLITSD System Updates & Priorities

WEEK TWO November 6, 2025
WHMIS Information & Chemical Exposures

WEEK THREE November 13, 2025
Exposure Assessment Tools

WEEK FOUR November 20, 2025
Occupational Diseases

WEEK FIVE November 27, 2025
Protecting Vulnerable Workers

OHCOW
ohcow.on.ca

The graphic features a teal-to-orange gradient background with various icons: a person at a computer, a gear, a heart with a pulse line, a warning sign, and a shield with a plus sign. A photograph of two people, a woman and a man, looking at a tablet is visible on the right side.

Scan the QR code or follow the link to sign up:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/october-beyond-2025-webinar-series-tickets-1760834125269?aff=oddtcreator>